

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A method of aiding in the identification of an infecting pathogen comprising the steps of:
 - a) isolating mRNA from one or more dendritic cells from an infected mammal; and
 - b) analyzing gene expression profile in said dendritic cells,wherein increased or decreased expression of at least one pathogen-specific gene relative to the expression of the pathogen-specific gene(s) in a reference gene expression profile aids in identification of the infecting pathogen.
- 2.-4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) A method of aiding in the identification of an infecting pathogen in a mammal comprising the steps of:
 - a) contacting immature dendritic cells with a pathogen or an immunogenic ~~components~~ component thereof;
 - b) isolating and labeling mRNA from said dendritic cells;
 - c) detecting labeled mRNA from said dendritic cells such that a gene expression profile is produced;
 - d) analyzing the gene expression profile relative to one or more reference gene expression profile(s) such that at least one pathogen-specific gene is identified;
 - e) isolating mRNA from one or more dendritic cells from an infected mammal; and
 - f) determining expression of at least one pathogen-specific gene identified in step d) in the isolated mRNA of step e),wherein increased or decreased expression of the pathogen-specific gene(s) relative to the expression of the pathogen-specific gene(s) in a reference gene expression profile aids in identification of the infecting pathogen in the mammal.
- 6.-8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously Presented) A method of aiding in the diagnosis of infection by a pathogen in a mammal comprising the steps of:

- a) isolating mRNA from one or more dendritic cells from the mammal;
 - b) analyzing gene expression profile in said dendritic cells,
- wherein increased or decreased expression of at least one pathogen-specific gene relative to the expression of the pathogen-specific gene(s) in a reference gene expression profile aids in diagnosis of infection by the pathogen.

10.-50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) A method of aiding in the identification of an infecting a pathogen comprising the steps of:
- a) contacting one or more immature dendritic cells with the pathogen;
 - b) isolating mRNA from said dendritic cells; and
 - c) determining a gene expression profile in said dendritic cells and analyzing the gene expression profile relative to one or more reference gene expression profile(s) such that at least one pathogen-specific gene is identified;
 - d) isolating mRNA from one or more dendritic cells from an infected mammal;
 - e) determining expression of at least one pathogen-specific gene identified in step c) in the isolated mRNA of step d),
- wherein increased or decreased expression of the pathogen-specific gene(s) relative to the expression of the pathogen-specific gene(s) in a reference gene expression profile aids in the identification of the infecting pathogen.

52.-58. (Cancelled)

59. (Currently Amended) A method of aiding in the diagnosis of infection by a pathogen in a mammal comprising the steps of:
- a) contacting immature dendritic cells with the pathogen or an immunogenic ~~components~~ component thereof;
 - b) isolating mRNA from said dendritic cells;
 - c) determining gene expression profile in said dendritic cells;
 - d) analyzing the gene expression profile relative to one or more reference gene expression profile(s) such that at least one pathogen-specific gene is identified;
 - e) isolating mRNA from one or more dendritic cells in an infected mammal; and

- f) determining expression of at least one pathogen-specific gene identified in step d) in the isolated mRNA of step e),
wherein increased or decreased expression of the pathogen-specific gene(s) relative to the expression of pathogen specific gene(s) in a reference gene expression profile aids in diagnosis of infection by the pathogen.